

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06851 021542Z
ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8733
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, NI
SUBJECT: MERCURY GAINS AS METRICATION POSTPONED

REF: STATE 135338

1. MERCURY MARINE SHOULD SHIP OUTBOARDS AND MOTOR OIL SINCE METRICATION ORDER NOW IN ABEYANCE. S.I. OGUNMODEDE, SUPERINTENDENT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (WM) TOLD EMBOFF THAT MAINTENANCE OF APRIL 1 DEADLINE ON SOLE METRIC MARKING FOR IMPORTS OF PREPACKED CONSUMER GOODS WOULD HAVE HAD TOO MANY ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT ECONOMIC COST SINCE GOODS WITH DUAL OR SIMPLE IMPERIAL MEASURE WERE ON THE HIGH SEAS OR IN CONTAINERS AWAITING SHIPMENT. RATHER THAN ASK FOR A GRACE PERIOD FOR SUCH GOODS, WM HAS RECOMMENDED A NEW DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 31 TO THE FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC). WM HAS WARNED CUSTOMS NOT TO SEIZE ANYTHING UNTIL THE FEC MAKES A DECISION.

2. OSTENSIBLY ALL OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY NOW COMPLY WITH SOLE METRIC MARKING REQUIREMENT, HOWEVER, OGUNMODEDE STATED THAT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOT CON-

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CERNED WITH ENFORCING THE DECREE IN CASES LIKE SHIRTS, TIRES, OR SPARE PARTS FOR MACHINES OR VEHICLES. HE STATED THAT FOR SHIRTS AND TIRES NEITHER MEASURE (I.E. IMPERIAL OR METIC) IS USED OVERTLY AND THE SIZES TAKE ON THE ASPECT OF AN IDENTIFYING CODE (E.G. 15/33 OR 185/14). IN ADDITION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE ECONOMY WOULD GRIND TO A HALT IF VEHICLES AND MACHINES,

SPECIFIED IN IMPERIAL MEASURE, SUDDENLY WERE
CUT OFF FROM A FLOW OF SPARE PARTS. OGUNMODEDE CON-
CLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT PRIMARILY IS CON-
CERNED WITH THOSE THINGS QUOTE WHICH AFFECT THE COMMON
MAN UNQUOTE.

3. COMMENT: IT IS PROBABLE THAT NEXT WEEK THE FEC
WILL APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR METRIC
MARKING OF PREPACKED CONSUMER GOODS UNTIL DECEMBER 31.
IT ALSO APPEARS, THAT FOR THE PRESENT, ENFORCEMENT OF
THE DECREE FOR OTHER SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WILL BE
VERY SLIGHT.
WYMAN

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